

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (currently amended) A sheath having a distal end opaque to x-rays, comprising:  
a sheath body, said sheath body comprising a first longitudinally extending sheath score line running substantially along a length of said sheath body;  
a tearable radiopaque marker located at a distal end of said sheath body, said radiopaque marker comprising a radiopaque ring; and  
at least one longitudinally extending marker score line running substantially along a length of said radiopaque marker, wherein said radiopaque marker may be split into two or more pieces along said at least one marker score line by tearing said sheath body;  
wherein said radiopaque marker abuts said sheath.
2. (original) The sheath of claim 1, further comprising:  
a second sheath score line running substantially along said length of said sheath body; and  
a second marker score line running substantially along said length of said radiopaque marker.
3. (original) The sheath of claim 2, wherein said first and second sheath score lines are located on an exterior surface of said sheath body.
4. (previously presented) The sheath of claim 2, wherein:  
said first and second sheath score lines are located approximately opposite one another along an interior of said sheath body; and  
said first and second marker score lines are located approximately opposite one another along said radiopaque ring.

5. (original) The sheath of claim 4, wherein:  
said first sheath score line and said first marker score line are aligned; and  
said second sheath score line and said second marker score line are aligned.
6. (original) The sheath of claim 5, wherein:  
said radiopaque marker is located within said sheath body; and  
said radiopaque marker is bonded to said sheath body.
7. (original) The sheath of claim 6, wherein said radiopaque marker is thermally bonded to said sheath body.
8. (original) The sheath of claim 5, wherein said radiopaque marker is embedded in said sheath body.
9. (currently amended) A sheath having a distal end opaque to x-rays, comprising:  
a sheath body, said sheath body comprising a first longitudinally extending sheath score line running substantially along a length of said sheath body;  
a tearable radiopaque marker located at a distal end of said sheath body, said radiopaque marker comprising a radiopaque ring; and  
at least one longitudinally extending marker notch running substantially along a length of said radiopaque marker, wherein said radiopaque marker may be split into two or more pieces along said at least one marker notch by tearing said radiopaque marker;  
wherein said radiopaque marker abuts said sheath.
10. (previously presented) The sheath of claim 9, further comprising:  
a second sheath score line running substantially along said length of said sheath body; and  
a second marker notch running substantially along said length of said radiopaque marker;

said first and second sheath score lines are located approximately opposite one another along an interior wall of said sheath body; and

said first and second marker notches are located approximately opposite one another along said radiopaque ring.

11. (original) The sheath of claim 10, wherein:

said first sheath score line and said first marker notch are aligned; and

said second sheath score line and said second marker notch are aligned.

12. (original) The sheath of claim 11, wherein said radiopaque marker is embedded within said sheath body.

13. (original) The sheath of claim 12, wherein said first marker notch is V-shaped.

14. (original) The sheath of claim 12, wherein said first marker notch is U-shaped.

15. (original) The sheath of claim 12, wherein said first marker notch comprises:

first and second sidewalls, said first and second sidewalls substantially parallel to one another; and

a base wall joining said first and second side walls, said base wall substantially perpendicular to said first and second side walls.

16. (original) The sheath of claim 12 wherein said first marker notch comprises a first and second curved sidewall, said first and second curved sidewalls meeting at a common point.

17. (currently amended) A sheath having a distal end opaque to x-rays, comprising:

a sheath body, said sheath body comprising at least one longitudinally extending sheath score line running substantially along a length of said sheath body;

a radiopaque marker located at a distal end of said sheath body, said radiopaque marker comprising a segmented radiopaque ring including a first marker portion, said radiopaque marker defining a gap substantially aligned with said sheath score line, wherein said first marker portion may be split apart from a remainder of said radiopaque marker along said gap by tearing said sheath body; and  
wherein said radiopaque marker abuts said sheath.

18. (previously presented) The sheath of claim 17, wherein said gap runs along an entirety of said first marker portion.

19. (previously presented) The sheath of claim 17, wherein said segmented radiopaque ring further comprises:

a second marker portion; and  
a second gap, said first and second gaps defining first and second marker portions; wherein  
said first and second marker portions are completely embedded in said sheath body.

20. (original) The sheath of claim 19, wherein said radiopaque marker is made from a material from the group consisting of a particulate-laden polymer, barium sulfate, gold, platinum, and tungsten.

21. (previously presented) The sheath of claim 19, wherein said first marker portion comprises a first marker half and said second marker portion comprises a second marker half.

22. (currently amended) A sheath having a distal end opaque to x-rays, said sheath comprising:

a sheath body, said sheath body comprising a first longitudinally extending sheath score line running substantially along a length of said sheath body; and

a tearable, contiguous radiopaque ring located at a distal end of said sheath body and abutting said sheath body, wherein said contiguous radiopaque ring includes at least one score line along which said contiguous radiopaque ring may be broken by tearing.

23. (previously presented) The sheath of claim 22, wherein said contiguous radiopaque ring comprises a contiguous metallic radiopaque ring.

24. (previously presented). The sheath of claim 22, wherein said at least one score line along which said contiguous radiopaque ring may be broken comprises at least two score lines along which said contiguous radiopaque ring may be broken.

25. (new). The sheath of claim 22, wherein the contiguous radiopaque ring is bonded to the distal end of the sheath body and the score line of the contiguous radiopaque ring is hollow.